

N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's Payroll Employment Up 1,000

SACRAMENTO – California's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1,000 jobs over the month, for a total of 15,166,200, according to the state Employment Development Department's (EDD) monthly survey of employers.

California's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in March, up from 5.7 percent in February, according to EDD. A year ago, in March 2007, California's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in March was 17,194,000. This was a decrease of 23,000 from February, but up 4,000 from the employment total in March of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,133,000 – up by 84,000 over the month, and up by 229,000 compared with March of last year.

Of the unemployed, 483,600 were laid off, 108,300 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 518,438 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the March survey week. This compares with 480,504 last month and 352,742 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 48,282 in March 2008, compared with 49,321 in February and 40,514 in March of last year.

(more)

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,166,200 in March, a net gain of 1,000 jobs since the February survey. This followed a gain of 23,500 jobs (as revised) in February.

Seven of the categories (**natural resources and mining; manufacturing; information; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) added jobs over the month, gaining 17,000 jobs. Information showed the largest gain, up by 6,700 jobs. Four categories (**construction; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; and professional and business services**) reported job declines this month, down 16,000 jobs. Construction posted the largest decline over the month, down by 6,300 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (March 2007 to March 2008), nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 12,000 jobs (down 0.1 percent).

Six industry divisions (**trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 146,600 jobs. Educational and health services showed the strongest gain on both a numerical and percentage of growth basis, adding 47,100 jobs (a 2.8 percent increase).

Four categories (**construction; manufacturing; information; and financial activities**) posted job declines over the year, down 158,600 jobs. Construction employment showed the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 87,900 jobs (a decline of 9.6 percent). One category, **natural resources and mining**, had no change over the year.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **government** recorded the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 19,500 jobs. The gains were primarily in local and state government education, which were up by 12,700 jobs and 3,300 jobs, respectively. **Financial activities** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 500 jobs. The losses were centered in the credit intermediation and related activities sector, which declined by 1,200 jobs.

Government reported the largest gain over the year, up 49,200 jobs. The gains were primarily in local and state government, which were up by 35,400 jobs and 13,200 jobs, respectively. The largest decrease over the year was in **construction**, which was down by 85,300 jobs. The losses were mainly in specialty trade contractors, down 64,800 jobs, and residential building construction, down 18,000 jobs.

NOTE TO EDITORS: *EDD encourages those who are filing for unemployment insurance benefits to do so on-line through our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov. On-line claim filing is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	March 2008 (prelim.)	February 2008 (revised)	March 2007	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	15,166.2	15,165.2	15,178.2	-0.1
Natural resources and mining	25.9	25.8	25.9	0.0
Construction	828.6	834.9	916.5	-9.6
Manufacturing	1,447.1	1,447.0	1,470.0	-1.6
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,912.9	2,917.6	2,908.2	0.2
Information	468.8	462.1	473.5	-1.0
Financial activities	878.8	881.4	921.9	-4.7
Professional and business services	2,285.8	2,288.2	2,261.9	1.1
Educational and health services	1,702.3	1,696.9	1,655.2	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	1,568.3	1,565.7	1,549.4	1.2
Other services	516.2	516.0	511.1	1.0
Government*	2,531.5	2,529.6	2,484.6	1.9
Agriculture	390.7	385.3	376.0	3.9

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

	March 2008 (prelim.)	February 2008 (revised)	January 2008	March 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,327,000	18,266,000	18,303,000	18,094,000
Total civilian employment	17,194,000	17,217,000	17,219,000	17,190,000
Unemployment	1,133,000	1,049,000	1,084,000	904,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	6.2	5.7	5.9	5.0
US seasonally adjusted rate %	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.4

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	March 2008 (prelim.)	February 2008 (revised)	January 2008	March 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,299,000	18,233,000	18,248,000	18,092,000
Total civilian employment	17,122,000	17,118,000	17,086,000	17,162,000
Unemployment	1,177,000	1,115,000	1,162,000	930,000
Unadjusted rate %	6.4	6.1	6.4	5.1

^aLabor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
MARCH 2008 (Preliminary); 2007 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,299,200	17,122,200	1,177,000	6.4%
ALAMEDA	757,500	716,200	41,300	5.4%
ALPINE	710	670	40	5.5%
AMADOR	18,320	16,940	1,380	7.5%
BUTTE	105,600	96,900	8,700	8.2%
CALAVERAS	21,180	19,430	1,750	8.3%
COLUSA	10,780	8,950	1,830	16.9%
CONTRA COSTA	528,300	498,900	29,400	5.6%
DEL NORTE	11,440	10,470	970	8.5%
EL DORADO	96,000	89,600	6,400	6.6%
FRESNO	433,300	385,100	48,200	11.1%
GLENN	12,540	11,210	1,330	10.6%
HUMBOLDT	60,800	56,500	4,300	7.1%
IMPERIAL	67,700	56,600	11,100	16.4%
INYO	9,500	8,900	600	6.3%
KERN	352,600	314,500	38,100	10.8%
KINGS	59,600	52,800	6,800	11.4%
LAKE	25,500	22,920	2,580	10.1%
LASSEN	13,090	11,630	1,460	11.1%
LOS ANGELES	4,962,300	4,674,800	287,500	5.8%
MADERA	63,400	56,700	6,700	10.6%
MARIN	137,900	132,200	5,700	4.1%
MARIPOSA	8,860	8,100	760	8.6%
MENDOCINO	43,550	40,310	3,240	7.4%
MERCED	105,700	91,200	14,500	13.7%
MODOC	3,880	3,410	470	12.1%
MONO	8,900	8,490	410	4.6%
MONTEREY	205,100	182,100	23,000	11.2%
NAPA	74,100	70,500	3,600	4.8%
NEVADA	51,050	47,820	3,230	6.3%
ORANGE	1,628,500	1,554,300	74,200	4.6%
PLACER	176,600	166,000	10,600	6.0%
PLUMAS	10,700	9,300	1,400	13.0%
RIVERSIDE	913,200	845,800	67,400	7.4%
SACRAMENTO	698,100	653,400	44,700	6.4%
SAN BENITO	26,400	23,400	3,000	11.4%
SAN BERNARDINO	887,000	827,300	59,700	6.7%
SAN DIEGO	1,548,100	1,466,400	81,700	5.3%
SAN FRANCISCO	438,700	418,100	20,600	4.7%
SAN JOAQUIN	301,100	270,200	30,900	10.3%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	137,800	130,800	7,000	5.1%
SAN MATEO	384,200	368,100	16,100	4.2%
SANTA BARBARA	218,100	206,600	11,500	5.3%
SANTA CLARA	863,600	817,900	45,700	5.3%
SANTA CRUZ	149,600	137,100	12,500	8.3%
SHASTA	86,100	77,400	8,700	10.1%
SIERRA	1,670	1,450	220	13.4%
SISKIYOU	19,200	16,880	2,320	12.1%
SOLANO	211,800	198,200	13,600	6.4%
SONOMA	264,500	250,700	13,800	5.2%
STANISLAUS	235,100	208,400	26,700	11.3%
SUTTER	43,100	37,300	5,800	13.4%
TEHAMA	25,570	23,120	2,450	9.6%
TRINITY	5,160	4,410	750	14.5%
TULARE	194,000	170,500	23,500	12.1%
TUOLUMNE	26,520	24,340	2,180	8.2%
VENTURA	429,200	405,300	23,900	5.6%
YOLO	98,600	91,100	7,500	7.6%
YUBA	28,000	24,600	3,400	12.0%